

Bob Martin and Kelly Martin of Kearney, Missouri. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions including assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, scribe, and assistant senior patrol leader. Alexander was also a past member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and earned his Brotherhood in Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Alexander demonstrated his ability to effectively lead and organize by putting all that he learned into constructing a storage basement for his church rectory in Liberty, Missouri, with the help of his scout and adult helpers. Alexander spent more than 140 hours of diligently planning, designing, and installing two storage units in order to maintain supplies for important committees and organizations within the church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Martin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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HONORING SCOTT SPERLING ON  
HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

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**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Scott Sperling on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday. Scott is a man known for his intellect and business acumen, and I am fortunate to call him a friend.

Scott is currently Co-President of Thomas H. Lee Partners and Trustee and General Partner of various THL Equity Funds and is also President of TH Lee Putnam Capital. Additionally, he keeps busy as Director of Hawkeye Holdings, Thermo Fisher Corp., Univision Communications, Inc., Warner Music Group, and several private companies.

In addition to his business commitments and accomplishments, Scott is also a director of several charitable organizations including the Brigham & Women's / Faulkner Hospital Group, The Citi Center for Performing Arts and Wang Theater and Harvard Business School's Rock Center for Entrepreneurship.

Scott started on his illustrious career path after earning a B.S. from Purdue University and an MBA degree from Harvard University.

Scott and his wife Laurene have four children, Michael, Jenny, Zach, and Melanie. It seems as if each Sperling is more intelligent than the next, and much of the credit for that should probably go to Laurene.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to wish a happy 50th birthday to my dear friend, Scott Sperling.

INTRODUCTION OF FOUNTAIN  
CREEK WATERSHED FEASIBILITY  
STUDY ACT

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**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am introducing a bill to authorize a feasibility study regarding a multipurpose project in the Fountain Creek watershed in Colorado. The bill is in the House companion to a similar bill, S. 2384, the Fountain Creek Feasibility Study Act, introduced by Senator Ken SALAZAR.

As Coloradans know, Fountain Creek is a major tributary to the Arkansas River. Its watershed, which encompasses some 927 square miles, supports a wide variety of plants and wildlife and directly affects many residents of our state—in fact, according to the 2000 census, more than 500,000 people live in the watershed's boundaries. But the effect of Fountain Creek's flows extends beyond the watershed's boundaries. Water from the watershed serves municipal, industrial and agricultural uses. Creeks within the watershed contribute about 15 percent of the drinking water for Colorado Springs and are a source of irrigation for over 100 farms and ranches. The fertile farmland there produces wheat, corn, hay, oats, and vegetable crops; there are also many working livestock ranches along Fountain Creek. But the watershed has its problems, and in recent years, issues related to Fountain Creek have tended to divide local residents who otherwise would be united by its ability to serve as an important link for commerce and recreation.

Decades of neglect, increased waterflows resulting from urban development in the northern part of the watershed, increased stormwater discharges, and sewage spills have all contributed to the problems and the controversies. The watershed is subject to frequent flood damage, erosion, and sedimentation. In 1999 a major flood caused millions of dollars of damage to public and private property, and destroyed the foundations of numerous homes and roads. Indeed, earlier this year there was minor flooding from the Fountain in the Pueblo area. Farmers and ranchers near the downstream end of the watershed in particular have suffered substantial losses of productive farmland. Degradation of the water quality and thus aquatic and wetland habitats is accelerating due to wastewater spills, loss of natural vegetation, and high water volume. Simply put, Fountain Creek watershed's ecological conditions are unstable and under constant threat.

Senator SALAZAR's bill, and this House companion to it, aim at laying a foundation stone for the work of restoring Fountain Creek and turning the corridor between Colorado Springs and Pueblo into an environmental, agricultural, and recreational "crown jewel" for Colorado. Under the legislation, the Army Corps of Engineers would be required to conduct a study of the feasibility of constructing one or more dams and reservoirs to provide more reliable flood and sediment control, to conserve fish and wildlife and preserve their ecosystem, and to improve the water quality throughout the watershed. The Corps' expertise and experi-

ence will be critical to determining the options for restoring the health and stability of the Fountain Creek watershed.

The idea of such a multipurpose project on the Fountain is not new. It was first proposed in 1970 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after the 1965 flood that inundated communities along the Fountain Creek, including particularly the city of Pueblo. The proposal was supported by the States of Colorado and Kansas and local officials, and was even the preferred option of the Army Corps for addressing flooding in the Fountain. Like Senator SALAZAR, I think a similar proposal should be evaluated again, in light of changed conditions and increased flows in Fountain Creek resulting from urban development in the Colorado Springs metro area.

Senator SALAZAR has laid out a vision to revitalize Fountain Creek and connect the communities along its bank in a regional project. The feasibility study called for in S. 2384 and this House companion would be an essential first step. I agree with Senator SALAZAR on the desirability of taking that step, and the bill I am introducing today is intended to assist in making it happen.

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IN HONOR OF MIKE LIPSKI

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**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, as we begin to wrap up this year's work in Congress, I wish to recognize a valued Mississippian who recently left my staff to pursue opportunities in the private sector back home in Mississippi. Mike Lipski served as my military legislative assistant and special projects director, and later, as my Legislative Director here in Washington, DC. Mike's heart has always been with his home on the Mississippi gulf coast; now he has returned there and taken a position as director of sector administration at Northrop Grumman. Mike's service to Mississippi and our country spans a lifetime of hard work.

Mike's two-decade service in the Navy stretches from his time as a surface warfare officer on the USS *Oliver Hazard Perry* to service as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer, including time at the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. He brought to my office experience as executive officer of Navy's Engineering Field Activity Southeast in Jacksonville, Florida, as well as a stint as a Navy Legislative Fellow serving on Senator TRENT LOTT's National Security staff.

On my staff, Mike utilized, promoted, increased, and protected the defense community's value, not only for security, but also as an engine of the economy. He demonstrated his commitment to the needs of our war fighters—past, current, and future—with his work on veterans legislation; support and funding for our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world; and preparation and planning for military training and base infrastructure around Mississippi and specifically at Meridian's Naval Air Station and our National Guard facilities. He served as the point person in my office during the most recent round of BRAC, base realignment and closure. He coordinated statewide efforts of military and community

leaders to effectively communicate the national mission value of our bases and defend them in the face of downsizing and cuts.

In my office, Mike provided calm and reasoned counsel and was a trusted advisor and effective implementer of my legislative agenda and appropriation priorities. He successfully worked with economic development interests to bring new and better jobs to Mississippi and implement strategic community development plans at our universities and industrial clusters. He has a strong vision for our State and creative ideas to reach those goals.

Hurricane Katrina presented unique challenges to all levels of leadership in Mississippi, from alderman to Congressman; from mayor to Governor. As we coordinated emergency response efforts on all levels of government, Mike Lipski served as my liaison to MEMA, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and slept on a cot at their headquarters for several days, when he wasn't on the coast with a satellite phone making immediate needs assessments and providing logistical coordination and advice. Mike traded his cot and sat-phone for a tie and clipboard and returned to Washington where he worked closely with me in developing and implementing Katrina reform measures: Federal contracting reform, housing and infrastructure policy, Federal relief and emergency recovery funding. His knowledge and experience with the Corps of Engineers provided a unique resource both during reform and in oversight as committees investigated the Government response to Hurricane Katrina.

Mike's wife, the former Jill Daria Wiltzius, has stood by him throughout his military career and his public service in my office. His transfers around the world have provided them both amazing international experiences but now Mike has convinced his Wisconsin girl to settle in Mississippi. Our State is a better place with the two of them as strong and honorable citizens. Jill is an outstanding educator and hopes to pursue her Ph.D. now that they are settled in Mississippi. I know Mike's family in Long Beach is very proud of him and his successful career is a tribute to his parents: John and Eleanor.

Now Mike will have time to sail, canoe, fly fish, and indulge his outdoor passions, but I have no doubt he will be integral in rebuilding and leading the coast to a full recovery.

Mike Lipski left a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, warm friendship, determined work ethic, and dry humor. I am proud of his service and the positive difference he has made for our State and the country. I am grateful to call him my friend. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi and wish him the best of fortune in his new endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING DEE CORK AND THE DENTON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Dee Cork for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces,

and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

Working along with Mr. Monty Slough, Mr. Cork identified the names of nine fallen service members and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Cork began building a granite tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Cork has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Dee said, "It would be nice to see no one else on it, one is too many."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Dee Cork for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize him today.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3997, HEROES EARNINGS ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TAX ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Heroes Earnings and Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act of 2007 is an important piece of legislation that goes a long way toward helping the financial difficulties faced by American soldiers. This bill helps honor those who are serving so bravely during this time of war.

The HEART Act would make permanent the inclusion of combat pay as earned income, ensuring that soldiers' families receive much needed tax relief. It also would help thousands of veterans and their families to become homeowners through low-interest home loans, would support those small business employers who continue to pay National Guardsmen and Reservists when they are called to serve, and expands other tax credit and tax relief provisions to help ease any financial difficulties faced by these soldiers.

Those who answer the call of duty should be rewarded for their actions by being assured they will not be unduly and negatively affected due to their patriotism. I support this legislation and join the many veterans' organizations in encouraging its passage into law.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CHAZY EAGLES UPON WINNING THE 2007 NEW YORK STATE BOYS SOCCER CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chazy Central Rural School District Eagles upon winning the 2007 New York State Boys Soccer Class D Championship. Of note, this was the third state boys soccer championship in the last four years for Chazy, which is located in my upstate New York congressional district.

On November 18, 2007, the Eagles won the New York State Class D Championship when they defeated the Poland Tornadoes by a score of 1-0. In that game, Stetson Fields scored late in the second half after taking a pass from Co-Captain Jason Baker. Chazy, with a 14-2 shot advantage that pressured the Tornadoes' defense all game long, was then able to preserve their lead, with goalkeeper Jacob Beeman recording the shutout.

The Eagles completed the 2007 season with a record of 24-1-0 and with team Co-Captain Nolan Ryan as the holder of the state record for career goals; in his career, Ryan scored 173 goals, 59 assists, and 405 points. The Chazy Eagles were coached by Rob McAuliffe and assistant coaches Ian Brassard and Matt Devins; Brian Norcross is the Athletic Director. Other team members were scorekeeper Lindsey Seymour and players, Ben Baker, Jordan Barriere, Kenny Bulriss, Tyler Bulriss, Jonah Curtin, Tyson Duprey, Brad Hansen, Shea Howley, Steven LaBombard, Co-Captain Kyle LaFountain, Andrew LaPierre, Perry Latremore, Eric Martin, Nathan Racine, Kyle Reynolds, Kaleb Snide, Gaelan Trombley, and Chris Vliege. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize them for their significant accomplishment.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DAN CICORA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dan Cicora, and to celebrate his service to the veterans of Cuyahoga County.

Dan began his service to our country in 1969. As a soldier in the United States Army, Dan served in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery. Dan graduated cum laude from Ohio University in 1975, and in 1979 began his work with the Veterans Administration as a benefits counselor. Dan's extraordinary dedication to veterans and his sincere desire to serve our community has marked every position he has held with the VA, and he has won numerous accolades for his efforts. In May 1983 Dan received the VA Central Office Public Service Award, he has received five suggestion awards, and twenty-three awards for performance, quality and contribution.

Since 2003 Dan has served as the Congressional Liaison for the VA Cleveland office. In this capacity Dan has helped my office